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Culture of peace

Note verbale dated 30 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations, in its capacity as President pro tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and would be grateful if the Executive Office of the Secretary-General would circulate the Suriname Declaration (see annex) adopted at the first Meeting of Ministers of Culture of CELAC, held on 14 and 15 March 2013 in Paramaribo, Suriname, as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 15.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 30 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Nineteenth Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean and first Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

14 and 15 March 2013, Paramaribo, Suriname

Suriname Declaration

We, the Ministers of Culture and heads of delegation gathered at the nineteenth Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean, held jointly with the first Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), aware of the historical significance of this gathering, held in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 14 and 15 March 2013, with the objective of advancing cultural integration, preserving cultural heritage and promoting culture for economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development in the region,

1. Ratify the validity of the principles and objectives that prompted the establishment, in 1989, of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean and its vanguard role in recognizing the importance of culture for the sustainable development of all member States of the region, as well as its contribution to Latin American and Caribbean integration;

2. Recognize that the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) constitutes a landmark in the history of the region, as this is the first time a regional entity has been established with the mission of advancing the political, economic, social and cultural integration of Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. Reaffirm the validity of the agreements contained in the Caracas Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean at the founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 3 December 2011 in Venezuela, and the Declaration of the first CELAC Summit, adopted on 28 January 2013 in Santiago, Chile;

4. Recognize the symbolic importance of this gathering as the first meeting of Ministers of Culture to be held within the framework of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);

5. Reaffirm our respect for the cultural diversity characterizing the Latin American and Caribbean identities as multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual societies, which constitutes the basis for cooperation and actions aimed at achieving regional integration, which, in keeping with the spirit and the principles of CELAC, must be built on the basis of respect for pluralism and the sovereign rights of each of our peoples, as well as full respect for the norms and principles of international law;

6. Recognize, on an equal footing, all Latin American and Caribbean cultural values and their important contribution to the cultural heritage of mankind;

7. Support the adoption of the measures necessary to safeguard and recover the traditional knowledge and wisdom of the indigenous peoples, Afro-descendent communities and communities of other geographical origin which today are part of the Latin American and Caribbean identities, while at the same time protecting those communities' individual and collective rights to all this knowledge and preventing any arbitrary action against them;

8. Ratify the importance of cultural rights within the entire spectrum of human rights, as well as the importance of according them all the necessary attention in order to ensure their full enjoyment;

9. Recognize the merit of cultural policies as a means of promoting values that reflect respect for life, human dignity, multiculturalism and the principles of justice and tolerance, and rejection of violence, as elements integral to the construction of a culture of peace that identifies the region;

10. Reaffirm our support for the proclamation by the United Nations, in December 2012, of the International Decade for People of African Descent, and welcome the inclusion in its programme of action of the creation of a permanent forum for people of African descent and the development of a universal declaration on people of African descent, among other ongoing initiatives;

11. Emphasize the relevance of the set of international conventions in the field of culture adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and urge those States of the region which have not yet done so to ratify them in accordance with their domestic legislative frameworks so that their concepts, guidelines and instruments may support the cultural policies of the region;

12. Ratify the role of culture in eradicating poverty and reducing social inequalities in Latin America and the Caribbean, as part of the process of building more equitable societies that are better equipped to face current challenges, incorporating sustainable development strategies;

13. Request UNESCO, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to carry out studies — using an agreed methodology — that quantify the impact of culture and the cultural industries on the achievement of the objectives outlined in paragraph 12 above, as well as a catalogue on best practices in this area, to be shared through the Portal of Culture. These studies should be submitted to the meeting of national coordinators of CELAC to be held in Havana, Cuba, in November 2013;

14. Express our determination to continue to combat illicit trafficking in cultural goods in the region and take note of the recommendations in this regard put forward by the member States that participated in the Training Workshop for Caribbean Member States held in Saint Lucia in December 2012;

15. Reaffirm our unanimous support for United Nations General Assembly resolutions 65/166 and 66/208 on culture and development, and fully support all efforts for the express inclusion of culture in the sustainable development goals being defined on the basis of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will be adopted in 2015;

16. Assume the mandate to act in a consensus-based manner as CELAC, in the framework of its rules of procedure, and to bring our proposals and experiences on cultural matters to multilateral forums, including the International Congress "Culture: Key to Sustainable Development", to be held in Hangzhou, China, from 15 to 17 May 2013, and the substantive session of 2013 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, to be held in Geneva from 1 to 26 July 2013;

17. Welcome the achievements of entities responsible for culture in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Andean Community of Nations, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), and reaffirm our commitment to work together in the integration process, promoting the synergies among them;

18. Welcome the meetings held in the framework of CELAC on regional and subregional integration mechanisms and call for culture to be given a higher profile at such meetings, in order to contribute to its full integration into sustainable development policies;

19. Welcome the recommendations made by filmmakers, authorities and experts gathered at the Latin American and Caribbean Film Festival, held at Isla Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in October 2012, regarding the importance of audiovisual archives in terms of heritage and content, initiatives for the creation of new television channels dealing with fiction films and documentaries, and the establishment of study groups for production and training programme projects, among other subjects;

20. Support the ongoing processes for the development of cultural information systems for disseminating and highlighting the important role played by culture in the economies and social development of our countries, by providing us with important elements for the design of public policies. We welcome the relationship established between different experiences and call for efforts to be made to develop a system that reaches all members of CELAC;

21. Welcome the Caribbean Cultural Corridor initiative as a project that facilitates contact among all our countries for the creation of a sociocultural space for the development of activities that stimulate exchange, promote the cultural economy, facilitate the marketing of cultural products and enhance means of communication and transportation between our countries for the well-being of our communities, and urge all the members of CELAC to join this initiative;

22. Express our appreciation to UNESCO for the historical support given to the Forum of Ministers of Culture through its Regional Bureau for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the assistance of its technical secretariat;

23. Decide to work for the gradual integration of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Meeting of Ministers of Culture of CELAC into a single mechanism, starting at the meeting to be held in 2014;

24. Resolve that, as from that meeting, the Meetings of Ministers of Culture of CELAC shall take responsibility for the activities of the Forum of Ministers of

Culture, the agreements reached within that framework and the continuity of the projects and programmes carried out to date by the Forum and its meetings;

25. Agree to establish a Working Group to develop the vision and mission of the Meetings of Ministers of Culture of CELAC and its procedures, in accordance with the CELAC rules of procedure, and to make proposals with a view to strengthening cultural-economic cooperation among the members of CELAC. This Group shall contribute to the work of the CELAC Working Group on Cooperation. The outcome of the work of this Group shall be submitted to the meeting of CELAC national coordinators to be held in Havana, Cuba, in November 2013;

26. Express our appreciation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for hosting the Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as for the full organization of the second Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2014, and also express our appreciation to the Republic of Cuba for agreeing to organize the 2015 Meeting;

27. Welcome the holding of the sixth World Summit on Arts and Culture, which will be organized by the National Council on Culture and the Arts of Chile and the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) in Santiago, Chile, from 13 to 16 January 2014. We welcome the interest of Chile in the participation of the countries members of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

28. Recognize the significance of CARIFESTA as a space for the promotion of integration and the marketing of our cultural products, and support the invitation by the Government of Suriname to ensure that our countries are amply represented at that event;

29. Pay tribute to President Hugo Chávez for his unwavering dedication to the sovereignty and integration of our nations and to the promotion of solidarity among the peoples of our region. We express sincere condolences to his family, to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and to the Venezuelan people, to which he dedicated his life. For CELAC, of which he was one of the principal founders and promoters, his example will stimulate us to redouble our efforts to achieve unity;

30. Express our profound gratitude to the Republic of Suriname for having assumed the Presidency of the Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean since the end of July 2011, as well as for its efforts and the facilities provided for the convening of the joint meeting of the nineteenth Forum of Ministers of Culture and Officials in Charge of Cultural Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean and the first Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Paramaribo, Suriname, 15 March 2013